

**CURTIS NAMED FIRST DIRECTOR OF MTB...**On October 6, 1975, Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., announced the appointment of James T. Curtis, Jr., as the first director of the department's Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB). Before becoming director of the bureau, Curtis, 42, was employed by the U.S. Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he managed traffic, transportation and distribution functions in the diversified products area for the corporation. He had worked for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh and Chicago for 17 years in a variety of jobs concerned with traffic and transportation. During his career at U.S. Steel, Curtis developed traffic, transportation and distribution functions for several of the corporation's new business ventures, and he helped to reorganize transportation activities within the corporation.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, he graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1957 with a B.S. degree in business administration. After graduation, he began work with U.S. Steel as a management trainee and had spent his entire working career there. Curtis is a member of the Transportation and Distribution Committees of the Compressed Gas Association, Manufacturing Chemists Association Inc., Society of Plastics Inc., and of the Tank Truck Technical Council.

The MTB, which reports directly to the Secretary, was established to coordinate the department's increased statutory responsibilities concerning hazardous materials and pipeline safety. It consists of the Office of Hazardous Materials Operations and the Office of Pipeline Safety Operations (OPSO). Responsibilities of the bureau include all operational pipeline safety functions and those hazardous materials operational functions pertaining to regulation and exemptions and those functions of an intermodal nature.

### **Relates to 49 CFR, Part 192 and Part 195**

**OPSO EXTENDS COMMENT PERIODS AND WILL CONDUCT HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR OFFSHORE PIPELINE FACILITIES...**On October 16, 1975, the OPSO Acting Director issued Notices 75-5A (Docket No. OPSO-30) and 75-4A (Docket No. OPSO-35) extending the comment periods for Notices 75-4 and 75-5 to December 1, 1975. A public hearing will be held on the matters in the notices on November 17, 1975. By Notice 75-4, published in the Federal Register on September 23, 1975 (40 Fed. Reg. 43740), the MTB proposed to amend Part 195 regarding the safety of offshore pipelines transporting petroleum, petroleum products, and other liquid hazardous materials. Also, by Notice 75-5, published on October 6, 1975 (40 Fed. Reg. 45192), MTB proposed to amend Part 192 to enhance the safety of gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas offshore.

Industry petroleum and gas associations and representatives of offshore oil and gas producers requested that the original deadlines for written comments be extended. The Offshore Operators Committee, representing oil and gas producers, suggested that an "on-the-record exploratory conversation between industry and OPSO" is needed to clarify issues and to aid the Committee in preparing comments.

OPSO decided to grant the requests for additional time to respond in writing by extending the deadline for written comments on both Notice 75-4 and Notice 75-5 to December 1, 1975. This extension allows interested persons at least 60 days to study the various rule-making proposals and to make accurate and complete responses. OPSO does not believe that a conference with industry representatives from purposes of explaining the rule making is appropriate. Further, OPSO has not granted a request by the American Petroleum Institute for additional time to request a public hearing. Instead, OPSO will conduct a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on November 17, 1975, in Room 3201, Trans Point Building, 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington D.C., on the subjects of both Notice 75-4 and Notice 75-5. The hearing will provide an opportunity for all interested persons to comment orally. It will be an informal, not a judicial type of hearing. There will be no cross examination of persons making statements. A member of the OPSO staff will preside at the hearing, and each person will be allowed to make an initial oral statement, including statements of any witnesses. Those who wish to make rebuttal statements will be allowed to do so in the same order in which they made their initial statement. All statements will become a part of the public record of the respective rule-making proceeding.

Persons who wish to make oral statements at the hearing should notify Peggy Tubbs, Office of Pipeline Safety Operations, 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20590 (Telephone: (202) 426-0135), stating the approximate amount of time required for an initial statement. Reprints of the Notices are being sent to those on the OPSO mailing list.

### **Relates to 49 CFR, Part 192**

DOT TECHNICAL PIPELINE COMMITTED TO MEET ON NOVEMBER 19-20...The department's Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on November 19 and 20, 1975, in Conference Rooms 2230 and 2232 of the Department of Transportation Headquarters Building (Nassif Building), 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20590.

The Committee is established under Section 4 of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968. The duties of the Committee are to review and report on the technical feasibility, reasonableness, and practicability of proposed Federal gas pipeline safety standards and amendments thereto. Proposed amendments to safety standards in 49 CFR Part 192 on the agenda for this meeting concern the following: (1) Emergency plans; (2) protecting cast-iron

pipelines; (3) documents incorporated by reference; and (4) definition of the term "gathering line."

The meeting is open to the public. Persons desiring to attend the meeting should contact Ms. Barbara Smith, Office of Pipeline Safety Operations, Materials Transportation Bureau, 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone (202) 426-2392, prior to 5 p.m. on November 18, 1975.

UTILITY LOCATION AND COORDINATION WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED IN CHICAGO AND DENVER...The American Public Works Association (APWA) has announced the scheduling of additional Education Foundation Workshops on Utility Location and Coordination. Two of the 2-day courses are scheduled for December 9-10, 1975, in Chicago, Illinois, at the Hotel Sheraton O'Hare (South) and on December 11-12, 1975, in Denver, Colorado, at the Holiday Inn (Airport). Instructors at these conferences will include public works officials and industry safety executives involved in the prevention of damage to underground pipelines and utilities. Additional information about the content of the workshops and arrangements for registration and attendance may be obtained by contacting Mr. C. Richard Kuykendall, Secretary, APWA Utility Location and Coordination Council, American Public Works Association, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, telephone (312) 947-2523.

ONDAK NAMED PROGRAM MANAGER FOR PIPELINE SAFETY AT TSI...Edward J. Ondak was named Program Manager-Pipeline Safety at the DOT Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) in Oklahoma City on October 1, 1975. Ondak, a native of Canton, Ohio, attended the Indiana Institute of Technology where he earned a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He had 10 years' experience in corrosion control with the Columbia Gas system working in both distribution and transmission sections. Ondak joined the staff at TSI on December 1, 1974, and has been active in the instruction of the department's Federal/State pipeline safety courses and seminars. He has enveloped and prepared test material for the two new 5-day TSI courses, Gas Pipeline Failure Investigation and Evaluation of Gas Pipeline Corrosion Control Systems. Ondak is an active member of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, serves on the Appalachian Underground Corrosion Short Course Committee, and is an accredited Corrosion Specialist.

FEDERAL/STATE REGIONAL MEETINGS LAUNCHED...The first two regional meetings of State agency gas pipeline safety executives were held recently--the Southern regional meeting in Atlanta on September 24-25, 1975, and the Southwest regional meeting at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport on October 1-2, 1975. These meetings provide a means for the States to give candid views on the OPSO program. It also provides OPSO an excellent opportunity to keep the States current on program direction and gives them an opportunity to discuss common objectives and problems. Subjects developed in the regional meetings will be sent to the Federal/State committee for discussion and final recommendations to OPSO. Typical items being discussed this year include the Office of Pipeline Safety reorganization, the new Regional Office concept, the grant-in-aid program now and in the future, Federal monitoring of State

programs, and an open-ended meeting in which the States can exchange ideas and comment on subjects of their choosing.

Mr. Charles Batten, Director of Safety Department, Florida Public Service Commission, was elected Chairman for the Southern Region, and James Stites, Chief, Gas Department, South Carolina Public Service Commission, is Vice-Chairman. Mr. Anthony Creston, Chief, Pipeline Safety, Arkansas Public Service Commission, was elected Chairman for the Southwest Region, and Ed Wright, Chief Engineer of Safety, Texas Railroad Commission, will serve as Vice-Chairman. Three more Federal/State agency meetings are scheduled in coming months for the Eastern, Central, and Western Regions.

SHEPHERD NAMED NTSB PIPELINE SAFETY CHIEF...Henry M. Shepherd has been recently designated Chief of the Pipeline Safety Division of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Mr. Shepherd received his degree in Industrial Management from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1952 and became associated with the Buckeye Pipe Line Company in New York. He has had 19 years of pipeline experience, serving the company in the capacity of engineer, assistant superintendent of the Products Division, member of the Planning and Development Division, staff engineer assigned to the Long Island Pipeline Project, assistant manager of construction, staff manager for the X-ray Division, and senior company engineer. Mr. Shepherd joined the NTSB in 1970 as a member of the Pipeline Safety Division and in 1974 was designated Acting Chief, Pipeline Safety Division.

OPSO PARTICIPATES IN PUBLIC WORKS CONGRESS UTILITY LOCATION AND COORDINATION PANEL...The Chief of the OPSO Industry Programs Division participated in the panel discussion on the activities of the American Public Works Association Utility Location and Coordination Councils during the International Public Works Congress in New Orleans on September 23 and 24. Topics covered in the discussions of the panel session included the recent reorganization in the MTB and OPSO, DOT actions directed at preventing outside force damage to buried pipelines and utilities, recent model statutes suggested to States for preventing damage to buried pipelines and utilities, planned contract study on the effectiveness of programs for the prevention of outside force damage to pipelines, provisions in the Federal pipeline safety standards relating to pipeline damage prevention, and OPSO training courses and information programs.

OPSO SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE MOVED...Earlier this month, the Southern Regional Office of OPSO announced its move to a new location at 1568 Willingham Drive, Suite 207B, Atlanta, Georgia 30337. New telephone number of the Atlanta Office is (404) 526-7861.

THE READING RACK...Technical information relating to pipeline safety appears in the following industry publications (Note--copies of these articles are not available from OPSO, and inclusion here does not necessarily indicate that content is consistent with current Federal regulations):

**PIPE LINE NEWS**, August-September 1975, "Aerial Pipe Line Patrol Monitors Rectifiers," Staff Report.

**MATERIALS PERFORMANCE**, May 1975, "Application and Handling of Wax-Type Protective Coatings and Wrapper Systems for Underground Pipelines," NACE Standard RP-03-75.

**PIPE LINE INDUSTRY**, June 1975, "Computer Simplifies D.O.T. Record Keeping," W.F. Eckles, Michigan Gas Utilities Co.

**CHILTON'S OIL & GAS ENERGY**, June 1975, "Reel Barge Lays One-Mile Pipeline in 1,000 Feet of Water," F. Jay Schempf, Editor.

**OFFSHORE**, October 1975, "Pipeline Problems in the North Sea Get Solutions After Costly Research Efforts," John P. O'Donnell, Pipeline Consultant.

**GAS INDUSTRIES-Natural Gas Edition**, August 1975, "What's New in Plastic Pipe Research," Raymond A. Day, Consolidated Natural Gas Service Co., Inc.

**PIPELINE & GAS JOURNAL**, July 1975, "Leak Detection With Spheres," Etienne Gagey, Societe des Transports Petroliers Par Pipeline, Paris, France.

**OIL & GAS JOURNAL**, April 28, 1975, "Marine Pipe-lay and Recovery-7: Subsea Line Buckling Costs Soar in Deep, Rough Water," Dr. Douglas Bynum, Jr. and Dr. Ira H. Rapp, III, Engineering Technology Analysts Inc.; May 5, 1975, Part 8 of Above Series, "What Do You Consider Before Laying Offshore Pipelines?"

#### **Relates to 49 CFR, §192.2443 and §195.234**

#### **INTERPRETATION OF REGULATIONS**

Question: Does 49 CFR 192.243(f) or 195.234(g) require that the location of welds be recorded by station number or geographic feature? Also, why is recording the location of welds necessary when a weld is X-rayed and found acceptable?

OPSO Interpretation:..."Section 192.243(f) provides: '(f) When nondestructive testing is required under §192.241(b), each operator must retain, for the life of the pipeline, a record showing by milepost, engineering station, or by geographic feature, the number of girth welds made, the number nondestructively tested, the number rejected, and the disposition of the rejects.'

"This section does not require that the precise location of welds be recorded. Rather, it requires the recording my milepost, engineering station, or geographic feature of certain information with respect to welds on the pipeline. [The] practice of measuring lengths of pipe to locate each weld is not necessary to comply with §192.243(f).

"Section 195.234(g) provides: '(g) A record of the nondestructive testing must be retained by the carrier who is involved, including (if radiography is used) the develop film with, so far as

practicable, the location of the weld. This record must be retained for three years after the line is placed in operation.'

"This section requires, where it is practicable to do so, recordation of the location of welds with the developed radiographic film. Any method of recording the location of welds may be used. Recording location by station number or geographic feature is one means of complying with the requirement. Recording the location of welds is of value for purposes of investigating accidents or compliance with the requirement for testing welds. The burden of complying with §195.234(g) is limited to the tests to which it applies. Any tests which [a] company voluntarily makes in addition to those to which §195.234(g) applies need not be recorded."

(Note: OPSO realizes the recordation requirement of §195.234(g) is more restrictive than §192.243(f). Consequently, OPSO is considering the issuance of a notice of proposed rule making to amend §195.234(g).)

Cesar DeLeon  
Acting Director  
Office of Pipeline  
Safety Operations

The Secretary of Transportation has determined that publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through November 30, 1976.